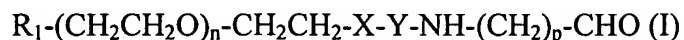


In the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I):

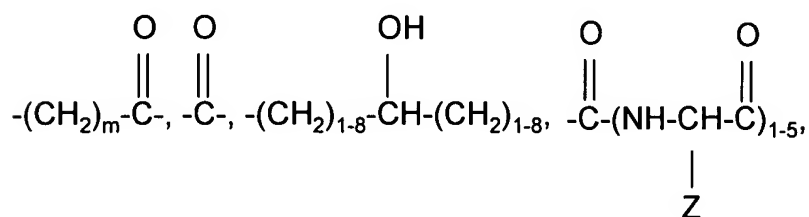


wherein

R₁ is a capping group,

X is O or NH,

Y is selected from the group consisting of



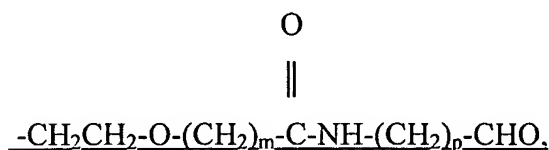
Z is a side chain of an amino acid,

m is from 1 to 17,

n is from 10 to 10,000, and

p is from 1 to 3,

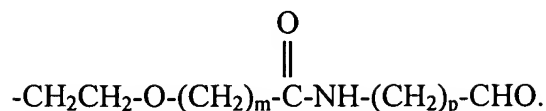
wherein said capping group is halogen, epoxide, maleimide, orthopyridyl disulfide, tosylate, isocyanate, hydrazine hydrate, cyanuric halide, N-succinimidyloxy, sulfo-N-succinimidyloxy, 1-benzotriazolyloxy, 1-imidazolyloxy, p-nitrophenyloxy,



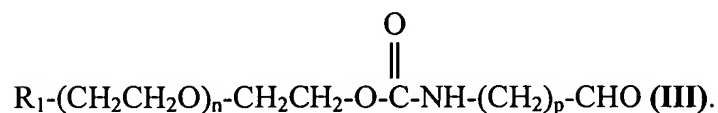
hydrogen, hydroxy, benzyloxy, lower alkyl, lower cycloalkyl, lower alkenyl, aryl or heteroaryl.

2-4. (Cancelled).

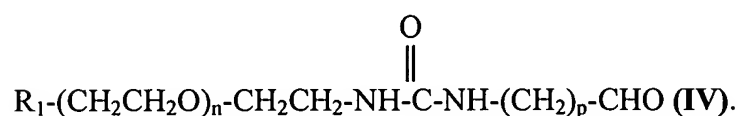
5. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 2, wherein R₁ is



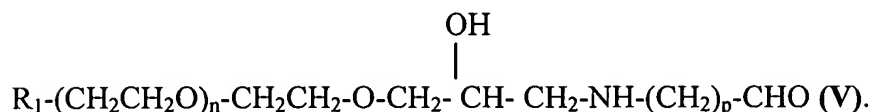
6. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 1 having the formula (III):



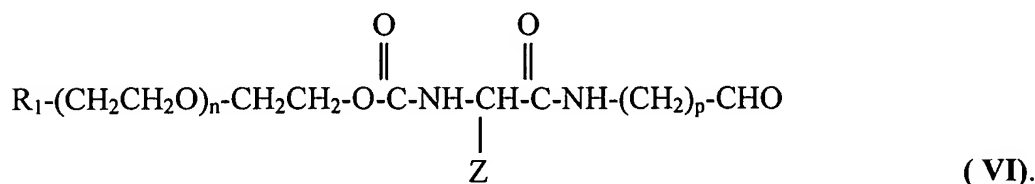
7. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 1 having the formula (IV):



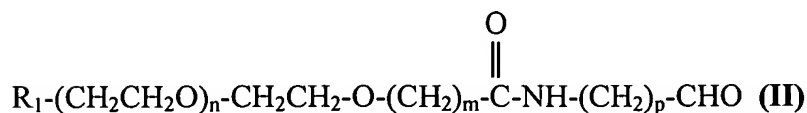
8. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 1 having the formula (V):



9. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 1 having the formula (VI):



10. (Withdrawn) A compound of formula (II):



wherein

R_1 is a capping group,

m is from 1 to 17,

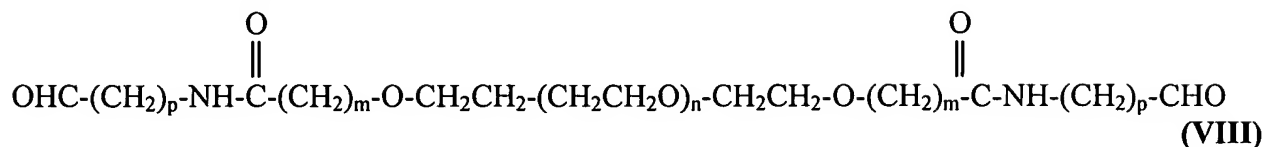
n is from 10 to 10,000, and

p is from 1 to 3.

11. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 10, wherein p is 3.
12. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 11, wherein R₁ is selected from the group consisting of methoxy, hydroxy, and benzyloxy.
13. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 11, wherein m is from 1 to 14.
14. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 13, wherein m is from 1 to 7.
15. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 14, wherein m is from 1 to 4.
16. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 11, wherein n is from 20 to 5,000.
17. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 16, wherein n is from 50 to 2,500.
18. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 17, wherein n is from 75 to 1,000.
19. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 10, wherein p is 3, R₁ is methoxy, m is 1, and n is from 100 to 750.
20. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 10, wherein p is 2.
21. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 20, wherein R₁ is selected from the group consisting of methoxy, hydroxy, or benzyloxy.
22. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 20, wherein m is from 1 to 14.
23. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 22, wherein m is from 1 to 7.
24. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 23, wherein m is from 1 to 4.

25. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 20, wherein n is from 20 to 5,000.
26. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 25, wherein n is from 50 to 2,500.
27. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 26, wherein n is from 75 to 1,000.
28. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 10, wherein p is 2, R₁ is methoxy, m is 1, and n is from 100 to 750.
29. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 10, wherein p is 1.
30. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 29, wherein R₁ is selected from the group consisting of methoxy, hydroxy, or benzyloxy.
31. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 29, wherein m is from 1 to 14.
32. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 31, wherein m is from 1 to 7.
33. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 32, wherein m is from 1 to 4.
34. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 29, wherein n is from 20 to 5,000.
35. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 34, wherein n is from 50 to 2,500.
36. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 35, wherein n is from 75 to 1,000.
37. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 10, wherein p is 1, R₁ is methoxy, m is 1, and n is from 100 to 750.

38. (Withdrawn) A compound of formula (VIII):



wherein

m is from 1 to 17,

n is from 10 to 10,000, and

p is from 1 to 3.

39. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 38, wherein m is from 1 to 14.

40. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 39, wherein m is from 1 to 7.

41. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 40, wherein m is from 1 to 4.

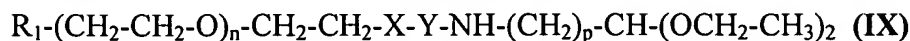
42. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 38, wherein n is from 20 to 5,000.

43. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 42, wherein n is from 50 to 2,500.

44. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 43, wherein n is from 75 to 1,000.

45. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 38, wherein p is 3, m is 1 and n is from 100 to 750.

46. (Withdrawn) A compound of formula (IX):

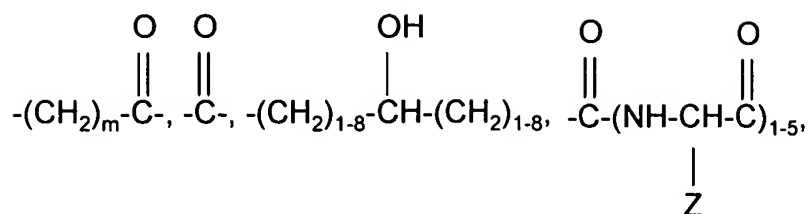


wherein

R₁ is a capping group,

X is O or NH,

Y is selected from the group consisting of



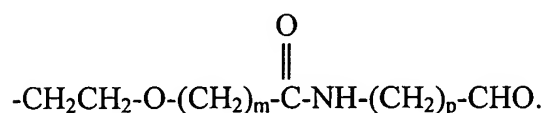
Z is a side chain of an amino acid,

m is from 1 to 17,

n is from 10 to 10,000, and

p is from 1 to 3.

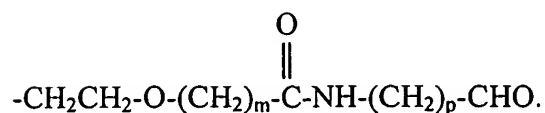
47. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 46, wherein R₁ is selected from the group consisting of halogen, epoxide, maleimide, orthopyridyl disulfide, tosylate, isocyanate, hydrazine hydrate, cyanuric halide, N-succinimidylxy, sulfo-N-succinimidylxy, 1-benzotriazolylxy, 1-imidazolylxy, p-nitrophenylxy, and



48. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 46, wherein R₁ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, lower cycloalkyl, lower alkenyl, aryl, and heteroaryl.

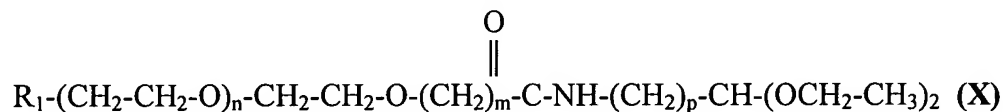
49. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 46, wherein R₁ is selected from the group consisting of methoxy, hydroxy, and benzyloxy.

50. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 46, wherein R₁ is



51. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 46, wherein m is from 1 to 14.

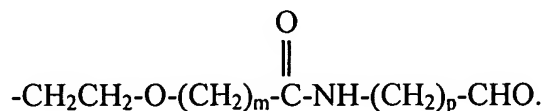
52. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 51, wherein m is from 1 to 7.
53. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 52, wherein m is from 1 to 4.
54. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 46, wherein n is from 20 to 5,000.
55. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 54, wherein n is from 50 to 2,500.
56. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 55, wherein n is from 75 to 1,000.
57. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 46, wherein R₁ is methoxy, p is 3, m is 1, and n is from 100 to 750.
58. (Withdrawn) A compound of formula (X):



wherein

R₁ is a capping group,
 m is from 1 to 17,
 n is from 10 to 10,000, and
 p is from 1 to 3.

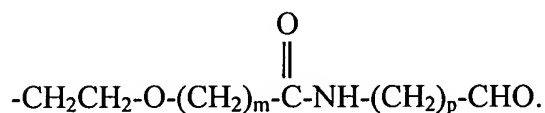
59. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 58, wherein R₁ is selected from the group consisting of halogen, epoxide, maleimide, orthopyridyl disulfide, tosylate, isocyanate, hydrazine hydrate, cyanuric halide, N-succinimidyloxy, sulfo-N-succinimidyloxy, 1-benzotriazolyloxy, 1-imidazolyloxy, p-nitrophenyloxy, and



60. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 58, wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, lower cycloalkyl, lower alkenyl, aryl, and heteroaryl.

61. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 58, wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of methoxy, hydroxy, and benzyloxy.

62. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 58, wherein R_1 is



63. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 62, wherein m is from 1 to 14.

64. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 63, wherein m is from 1 to 7.

65. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 64, wherein m is from 1 to 4.

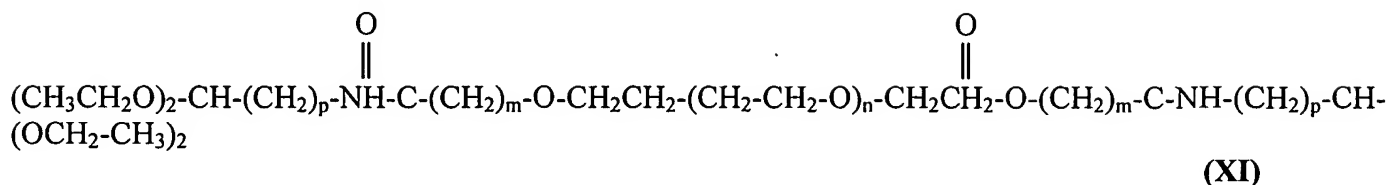
66. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 58, wherein n is from 20 to 5,000.

67. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 66, wherein n is from 50 to 2,500.

68. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 67, wherein n is from 75 to 1,000.

69. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 58, wherein R_1 is methoxy, p is 3, m is 1, and n is from 100 to 750.

70. (Withdrawn) A compound of formula (XI):



wherein

m is from 1 to 17,

n is from 10 to 10,000, and

p is from 1 to 3.

71. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 70, wherein m is from 1 to 14.

72. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 71, wherein m is from 1 to 7.

73. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 72, wherein m is from 1 to 4.

74. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 70, wherein n is from 20 to 5,000.

75. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 74, wherein n is from 50 to 2,500.

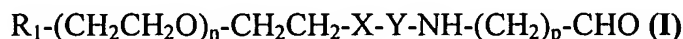
76. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 75, wherein n is from 75 to 1,000.

77. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 70, wherein p is 3, m is 1 and n is from 100 to 750.

78. (Withdrawn) A method of making a polyethylene glycol aldehyde comprising hydrolyzing a compound of formula (IX):



to produce a polyethylene glycol aldehyde of formula (I):

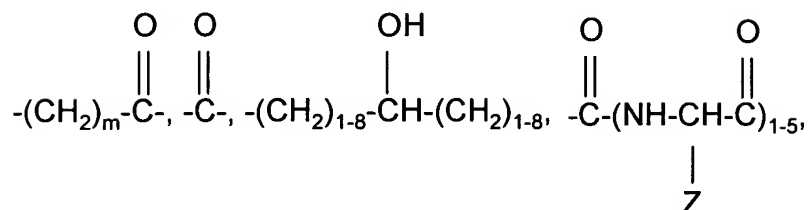


wherein

R₁ is a capping group,

X is O or NH,

Y is selected from the group consisting of



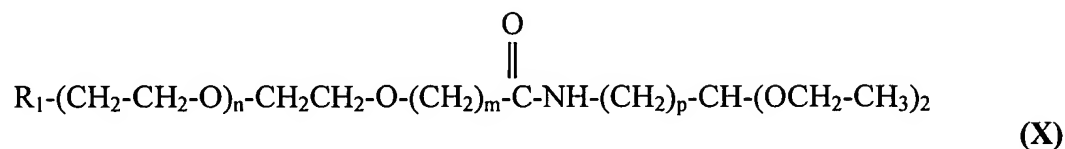
Z is a side chain of an amino acid,

m is from 1 to 17,

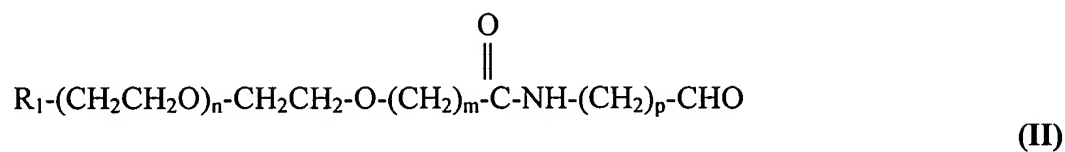
n is from 10 to 10,000, and

p is from 1 to 3.

79. (Withdrawn) A method of making a polyethylene glycol aldehyde comprising hydrolyzing a compound of formula (X):



to produce a polyethylene glycol aldehyde of formula (II):



wherein

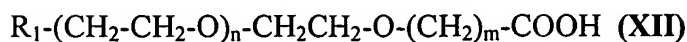
R₁ is a capping group,

m is from 1 to 17,

n is from 10 to 10,000, and

p is from 1 to 3.

80. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 79 wherein the compound of formula (X) is produced by reacting a compound of formula (XII):



with a compound of formula (XIII):

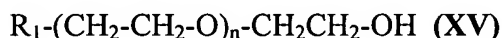


81. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 80 wherein the compound of formula (XII) is produced by hydrolyzing a compound of formula (XIV):



wherein R_3 is a branched or unbranched C_1 - C_4 alkyl.

82. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 81 wherein the compound of formula (XIV) is produced by reacting a compound of formula (XV):

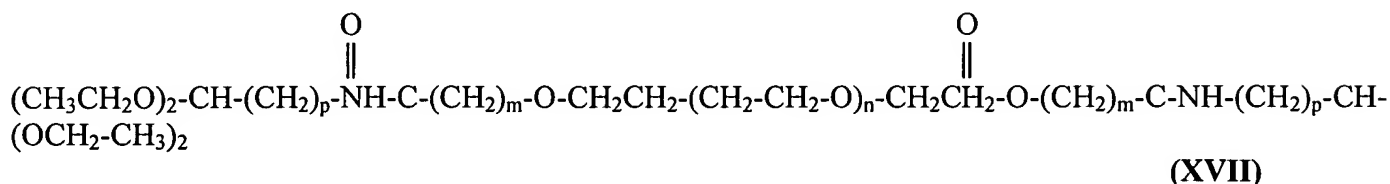


with a compound of formula (XVI):

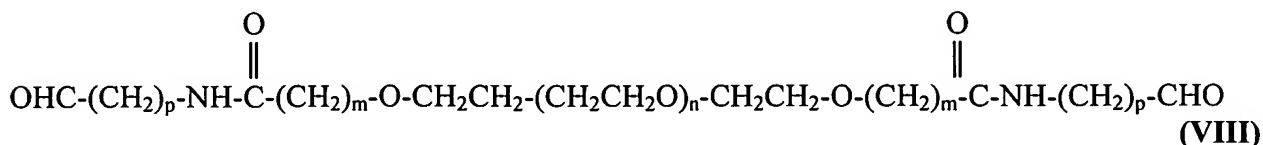


wherein R_2 is halogen.

83. (Withdrawn) A method of making a polyethylene glycol aldehyde comprising hydrolyzing a compound of formula (XVII):



to produce a polyethylene glycol of formula (VIII):



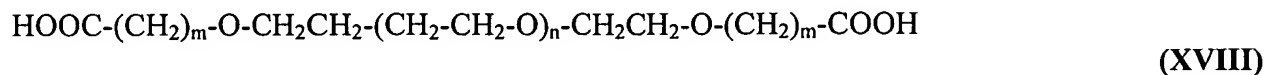
wherein

m is from 1 to 17,

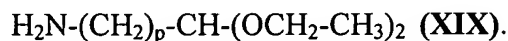
n is from 10 to 10,000, and

p is from 1 to 3.

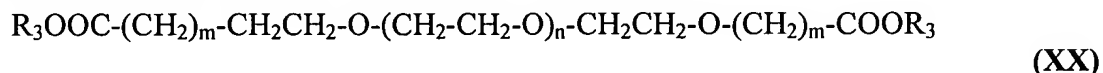
84. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 83 wherein the compound of formula (VIII) is produced by reacting a compound of formula (XVIII):



with a compound of formula (XIX):

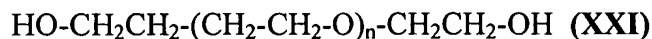


85. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 84 wherein the compound of formula (XVIII) is produced by hydrolyzing a compound of formula (XX):



wherein R₃ is a branched or unbranched C₁-C₄ alkyl.

86. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 85 wherein the compound of formula (XX) is produced by reacting a compound of formula (XXI):



with a compound of formula (XVI):



wherein R₂ is halogen.